



## PRESS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Rubber Dam to be Inflated on Russian River**

*Residents Encouraged to Use Water Wisely*

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) is currently informing the public about its plans to raise its inflatable rubber dam on the Russian River on Wednesday, March 28. The inflatable dam is located just downstream of the Wohler Bridge on the Russian River and is normally raised in the spring when potable water demand increases and Russian River flow levels decrease.

The inflatable dam raises the upstream water level and creates a backwater from which to draw water into off-stream infiltration ponds. This backwater also enhances Agency well levels in the area. Permanent fish ladders provide fish passage when the inflatable dam is raised. A video camera mounted under water captures video footage of fish using the fish ladders. Video footage can be viewed on the Agency's website under the Environment section.

The inflatable dam will be fully inflated and fishermen or boaters will have to portage their boats around the inflatable dam or use the public fishing access on the west side of Wohler Bridge. California Department of Fish and Game regulations prohibit fishing within 250 feet of the upstream and downstream side of the dam. No other recreational impacts are expected.

"Raising the dam at this time of the year is a standard operational procedure for our water distribution system," said Pam Jeane, deputy chief engineer of operations. "The backwater created by the dam helps our water transmission system deliver high quality drinking water to approximately 600,000 residents in portions of Sonoma and Marin counties."

Residents are encouraged to conserve water by reducing their outdoor watering and planting low-water use plants. Water conservation tips can be found on the Agency's website at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).

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*The Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*